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Milford Mine considered for national nomination

CROSBY — The Milford Mine site in Crow Wing County is being considered by the State Review Board for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places.

The Minnesota Historical Society informed Crow Wing County of the consideration in a letter this month.

"The National Register of Historic Places is the federal government's official list of historic properties worthy of preservation," the Minnesota Historical Society reported. "Listing in the National Register provides recognition and

assists in preserving our nation's heritage."

If the property is listed, certain federal investment tax credits for rehabilitation and other provisions may apply.

Phase One Crow Wing County's Milford Mine Memorial Park was completed last fall. Work included construction of a parking area and walking path on the north end of Milford Lake. The site includes an information kiosk. A primitive boat launch was developed for a small motor boat, canoe or kayak.

The site marks a tragedy in Crow Wing County that marked

its 87th anniversary earlier this month.

Forty-one miners lost their lives in the Milford Mine disaster on Feb. 5, 1924, in the worst mining accident in Minnesota history. The site includes the foundations of buildings, once part of the busy mine operation, beneath the overgrowth. A visit to the wooded, hilly site next to the lake lets residents connect into that mining past in the Cuyuna Range's history when miners toiled far beneath the earth's surface.

The Milford Mine disaster is believed to have begun when a

surface cave-in of six or eight feet at the mine's easternmost end tapped into mud with a direct connection with the nearby lake. For the men working that day, there was a single vertical shaft to the surface and life. Seven men made it out.

The State Review Board will consider the nomination on March 22. The program begins at 6:45 p.m. with the nominations presented at 7 p.m. in Cargill Commons, MacMillan Education Center, Minnesota Historical Society History Center, 345 Kellogg Boulevard W., St. Paul.